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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF
VERIFYING THE AGE OF PURCHASERS OF ALCOHOL.

WHEREAS, on a national level, motor vehicle crashes are
the leading cause of death among young people between the
ages of fifteen and nineteen; and

WHEREAS, on a national level, thirty percent of all
motor vehicle crashes involving young people that result in
injury involve alcohol; and

WHEREAS, one-third of fatal motor vehicle collisions in
New Mexico caused by drivers between the ages of fifteen and
twenty are alcohol-related; and

WHEREAS, binge drinking, which is the consumption of
five or more alcoholic drinks within two hours, has increased
among New Mexico high school students from twenty-nine
percent in 2001 to thirty-five percent in 2003, compared with
the national average of twenty-nine percent; and

WHEREAS, drivers between the ages of fifteen and twenty
who are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol
in New Mexico have a mean blood alcohol content of thirteen
hundredths; and

WHEREAS, although drivers between the ages of fifteen
and twenty represented only eight and four-tenths percent of

1 licensed drivers in New Mexico in the year 2000, these
2 drivers were involved in eighteen percent of alcohol-related
3 crashes in that year; and

4 WHEREAS, there are proportionately more young people
5 under twenty-one years old in New Mexico who drink and drive
6 than persons over twenty-one who drink and drive; and

7 WHEREAS, drivers under twenty-one years of age in New
8 Mexico are involved in alcohol-related collisions that cause
9 more injuries since this age group tends to have many
10 occupants in the vehicle; and

11 WHEREAS, the number of adolescents who reported having
12 consumed at least one drink of alcohol on school property has
13 doubled in New Mexico from seven percent in 2001 to fourteen
14 percent in 2003; and

15 WHEREAS, nineteen percent of New Mexico high school
16 students report drinking and driving as compared with
17 thirteen percent nationwide;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the director of the alcohol and
20 gaming division of the regulation and licensing department
21 and the governor's DWI coordinator be requested to assemble a
22 task force to study and investigate available and emerging
23 electronic technology that verifies the age of each person
24 who purchases or is served alcohol in New Mexico and make
25 recommendations on the implementation of such technology; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
2 representatives from the public health division of the
3 department of health, the New Mexico sheriffs and police
4 association, the New Mexico restaurant association, the New
5 Mexico retailers association, the New Mexico hospitality
6 association, the New Mexico grocers association, the New
7 Mexico lodgers association, the independent petroleum
8 marketers association, mothers against drunk driving, the DWI
9 resource center and other interested groups; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director of the alcohol
11 and gaming division of the regulation and licensing
12 department and the governor's DWI coordinator report to the
13 appropriate interim legislative committee on the status of
14 electronic age verification technology and recommend
15 legislation to facilitate the use of such technology in all
16 businesses that sell or serve alcohol to the public; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the director of the alcohol and gaming division
19 of the regulation and licensing department and the governor's
20 DWI coordinator.

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